

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

The Amendment, filed on March 27, 2008 has been entered and acknowledged by the Examiner.

The cancellation of claim 11 is acknowledged by the Examiner.

Claims 1-10 and 12-13 are pending in the instant application.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-10 and 12-13 are allowed over the prior art of record.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

Regarding Claim 1, the references of the Prior Art of record fails to teach or suggest the combination of the limitations as set forth in Claim 1, and specifically comprising the limitation of " the free end of the further electrode has a distance of $(0.2 - 1) \times R_{inner\ tube}$ from the axis of the filament electrode, $R_{inner\ tube}$ being the inner radius of the discharge vessel in this section of the discharge vessel".

Regarding Claims 2-10 and 12-13, they are allowed for the reasons given in Claim 1 because of their dependency status on Claim 1.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance". Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DONALD L. RALEIGH

whose telephone number is (571)270-3407. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:30AM to 5:00PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nimesh Patel can be reached on 571-272-2457. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Donald L Raleigh/
Examiner, Art Unit 2879

/Mariceli Santiago/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2879